

IN THE CLAIMS

1-46. (canceled).

47. (currently amended) A graphical user interface (GUI) instantiated by computer software for generating a file from data entered into selected ones of N fields in the GUI, wherein:

at least one of ~~[[the]]~~a file format of the file and ~~the data-accepting ones~~ a subset of the N fields that will be data-accepting fields is determined responsive to data entered into a first predetermined one of the N fields; and

N is an integer equal to or greater than 2.

48. (currently amended) The GUI as recited in Claim 47, wherein the subset of data-accepting ~~[[ones]]~~ fields of the N fields ~~[[are]]~~ is further limited responsive to data entered into a second predetermined one of the N fields.

49. (currently amended) The GUI as recited in Claim 47, wherein ~~a first~~ at least a portion of the subset of data-accepting ~~[[ones]]~~ fields of the N fields is automatically filled in when the file is opened.

50. (currently amended) The GUI as recited in Claim 47, wherein ~~a second~~ at least a portion of the subset of data-accepting ~~[[ones]]~~ fields of the N fields is automatically filled in when data is entered into the first predetermined one of the N fields.

51. (currently amended) The GUI as recited in Claim 47, wherein each of the N fields has an associated label identifying specific information to be inserted into ~~the respective one of the N fields~~ field associated with that label.

52. (currently amended) A graphical user interface (GUI) instantiated by computer software for generating a file transmittable to a selected one of M recipients from data entered into selected ones of N fields in the GUI, wherein:

at least one of ~~[[the]]~~a file format of the file and ~~the data-accepting ones~~ a subset of the N fields that will be data-accepting fields is determined responsive to data entered into a first predetermined one of the N fields; and

M and N are integers equal to or greater than 2.

53. (currently amended) The GUI as recited in Claim 52, wherein the selected one of the M recipients is selected by entering a unique identifier corresponding to the selected one of the M recipients into ~~[[a]]~~ the first predetermined one of the N fields.

54. (previously presented) The GUI as recited in Claim 52, wherein each of the M recipients has associated therewith a unique portion of the instantiating software.

55. (previously presented) The GUI as recited in Claim 54, wherein the unique portion of the instantiating software associated with each of the M recipients contains information specifying which of the N fields presented by the GUI will accept data in files generated for transmission to that recipient.

56. (previously presented) The GUI as recited in Claim 54, wherein the unique portion of the instantiating software associated with each of the M recipients contains information specifying the format to be used for files generated for transmission to that recipient.

57. (currently amended) The GUI as recited in Claim 54, wherein the unique portion of the instantiating software associated with each of the M recipients is updated:

as the file requirements of that particular recipient changes;

independent of the other M recipients; and

independent of ~~[[the]]~~a sender of the transmitted file.

58. (currently amended) The GUI as recited in Claim 54, wherein the unique portion of the instantiating software associated with each of the M recipients is accessed and updated by that recipient independently of the remaining M recipients and independently of ~~[[the]]~~a sender of the transmitted file.

59. (currently amended) The GUI as recited in Claim 54, wherein once one of the M recipients has been selected, the data-accepting ones of the N fields present by the GUI and the format of the file generated are determined responsive to [[the]] specifications made in the unique portion of the instantiating software associated with that one of the M recipients.

60. (currently amended) The GUI as recited in Claim 52, wherein the transmittable file generated can be digitally integrated directly into [[the]]an information system of the selected one of the M recipients.

61. (previously presented) The GUI as recited in Claim 60, wherein the transmittable file generated can be integrated directly into the information system of the selected one of the M recipients without imposing a standard on the transmittable file which forces every one of the M recipients to accept files with the same fields which accept data and the same format as files generated for all the other M recipients.

62. (previously presented) The GUI as recited in Claim 60, wherein said ability to directly integrate the transmitted file into the information system of the selected one of the M recipients is maintained even when the instantiating software is updated.

63. (currently amended) The GUI as recited in Claim 60, wherein [[the]]a sender of the transmitted file can generate a file which can be digitally integrated directly into the information system of the selected one of the M recipients without said recipient divulging to the sender specifications of its information system.

64. (currently amended) The GUI as recited in Claim 52, wherein the M recipients and [[the]]a sender of the transmitted file operate independent computer systems.

65. (currently amended) The GUI as recited in Claim 52, wherein the GUI provides a single universal interface between [[the]]a sender of the transmitted file and the M recipients.

66. (currently amended) The GUI as recited in Claim 52, wherein the instantiating computer software resides on a personal computer operated by [[the]]a sender of the transmitted file.

67. (previously presented) The GUI as recited in Claim 66, wherein the instantiating computer software is automatically updated whenever the file is transmitted to the one of the M recipients.

68. (currently amended) The GUI as recited in Claim 52, wherein the instantiating computer software resides on a server computer accessible to [[the]]a sender of the transmitted file via the Internet.

69. (previously presented) The GUI as recited in Claim 68, wherein the file generated is transmitted from the server to the selected one of the M recipients.

70. (currently amended) The GUI as recited in Claim 68, wherein the ~~completed~~-file generated is archived on a computer permitting access to the server.

71. (previously presented) The GUI as recited in Claim 68, wherein:
the file is completed on the server;
the completed file is downloaded to the accessing computer; and
the completed file is transmitted to the chosen one of the M recipients from the accessing computer.

72. (previously presented) The GUI as recited in Claim 52, wherein a first portion of the selected ones of the N fields is automatically filled in with data when the file is opened.

73. (previously presented) The GUI as recited in Claim 52, wherein a second portion of the selected ones of the N fields is automatically filled in with data when data is entered into the first predetermined one of the N fields.

74. (previously presented) The GUI as recited in Claim 52, wherein the selected ones of the N fields are further limited responsive to data entered into a second predetermined one of the N fields.

75. (previously presented) The GUI as recited in Claim 52, wherein the fields are blank labeled fields asking for specific information.

76. (currently amended) The GUI as recited in Claim 52, where the ~~generated~~-file generated is a transaction form to be transmitted from [[the]]a sender to a selected one of the M recipients.

77. (previously presented) The GUI as recited in Claim 76, wherein the generated file corresponds to one of a bill and a claim for services from a healthcare provider to a healthcare care payer.

78. (previously presented) The GUI as recited in Claim 77, wherein at least one of the data-accepting fields accept an insurance claim form attachment.

79. (currently amended) The GUI as recited in Claim 77, wherein:
the first predetermined one of the N fields accepts a unique identifier associated with a payer; and
[[the]]a second predetermined one of the N fields accepts a code associated with a unique medical service.

80. (previously presented) The GUI as recited in Claim 79, wherein once the first and second predetermined fields have been populated with respective data, the remaining fields identify additional data the payer requires to support the Claim for the specified medical service.

81. (previously presented) The GUI as recited in Claim 52, wherein at least one of the data-accepting fields accepts a computer file.

82. (previously presented) The GUI as recited in Claim 52, wherein at least one of the data-accepting fields accepts a digital image.

83. (previously presented) The GUI as recited in Claim 52, wherein at least one of the data-accepting fields accepts a word processor document.

84. (previously presented) The GUI as recited in Claim 52, wherein at least one of the data-accepting fields accepts a digital graph.

85. (previously presented) The GUI as recited in Claim 52, wherein at least one of the data-accepting fields accepts a digital sound recording.

86. (previously presented) The GUI as recited in Claim 52, where at least one of the data-accepting fields accepts a digitized video signal.

87. (currently amended) The GUI as recited in Claim 52, wherein first and second files generated during first and second sessions initiated by [[the]]a user have first and second file formats permitting integration of that file into the information system operated by first and second ones of the M recipients, respectively.

88. (currently amended) A graphical user interface (GUI) instantiated by computer software for generating a file in a selected one of a plurality of formats from data entered into the GUI, the GUI comprising:

N data-accepting fields disposed in a predetermined order including an active subset of the N data-accepting fields and an inactive subset of the N data-accepting fields;

wherein:

at least one of the selected one of the formats and members of the active subset [[and]] is determined responsive to data entered into a first of the N data-accepting fields; and

N is an integer equal to or greater than 2.

89. (previously presented) The GUI as recited in Claim 88, wherein the members of the active subset of the N data-accepting fields are further limited responsive to data entered into a second of the N data-accepting fields included in the active subset.

90. (currently amended) A graphical user interface (GUI) instantiated by computer software for generating a file in a selected one of R formats transmittable to a selected one of M recipients from data entered into the GUI, the GUI comprising:

N data-accepting fields disposed in a predetermined order including an active subset of the N data-accepting fields and an inactive subset of the N data-accepting fields;

wherein:

at least one of the selected one of the R formats and the members of the active subset [[and]] is determined responsive to data entered into a predetermined one of the N data-accepting fields; and

M, N, and R are integers equal to or greater than 2.

91. (previously presented) The GUI as recited in Claim 90, wherein the selected one of the M recipients is selected by entering a unique identifier corresponding to the selected one of the M recipients into the predetermined one of the N data-accepting fields.

92. (previously presented) The GUI as recited in Claim 90, wherein each of the M recipients has associated therewith a unique portion of the instantiating software.

93. (currently amended) The GUI as recited in Claim 90, wherein the transmittable file generated can be digitally integrated directly into [[the]]an information system of the selected one of the M recipients.

94. (currently amended) The GUI as recited in Claim 90, wherein the M recipients and [[the]]a sender of the generated file operate independent computer systems.

95. (currently amended) The GUI as recited in Claim 90, wherein the GUI provides a single universal interface between [[the]]a sender of the generated file and the M recipients.

96. (currently amended) The GUI as recited in Claim 90, wherein the instantiating computer software resides on a personal computer operated by [[the]]a sender of the generated file.

97. (currently amended) The GUI as recited in Claim 90, wherein the instantiating computer software resides on a server computer accessible to [[the]]a sender of the generated file via the Internet.

98. (previously presented) The GUI as recited in Claim 90, wherein the member of the active subset are further limited responsive to data entered into a second one of the N data-accepting fields in the active subset.

99. (currently amended) The GUI as recited in Claim 90, wherein first and second files generated during first and second sessions initiated by [[the]]a user have first and second file formats permitting integration of that file into the information system operated by first and second ones of the M recipients, respectively.